Dul-Hasti project

1412. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dul-Hasti project in the Jammu region was sanctioned many years ago;

(b) whether work on this project has been held up for various reasons; and

(c) by when the work on this project would be resumed and what is the expected date of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Dulhasti HE Project was sanctioned in November, 1982 at a cost of Rs. 183.45 crores. However, the work on this Project could not start for want of funds. Thereafter, the project was sanctioned for turnkey execution by French Consortium in July, 1989 at a cost of Rs. 1262.97 crores.

(b) In August, 1992 the French consortium suspended work at the Project site citing the prevailing security environment.

(c) Work on the Project has resumed departmentally by NHPC in April, 1995. The contract for completion of balance civil works has been awarded to a new civil contractor.

Ad hoc Management in NTPC

1413. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the day to day functioning of NTPC is being handled by a Joint-Secretary level official in violation of norms following the regular Chairman proceeding on leave as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 10th February, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that delay in all matters is taking place because of not allowing the senior most director to function in the NTPC and the charge being given to a Joint-Secretary level officer by the Power Secretary;

(d) whether the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also objected to this step; and

(e) if so, what corrective measures are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) A Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Power dealing with NTPC and already a Director on the Board of Directors of NTPC was entrusted the responsibility of looking after the day-to-day functions of CMD. NTPC during the period of absence on leave of the regular incumbent of post of the CMD, NTPC for about a month. While making this arrangement, the Government had fully considered the existing guidelines for filling up the temporary vacancies of CMDs as also the relative suitability of various available members of the Board of Directors of Corporation.

(c) No, Sir. This arrangement did not, in any way, cause any delay or dislocation in the disposal of any matter handled in the NTPC or the Government.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise

Rationalisation of power Tariffs

1414. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI MD. SALIM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rationalisation of the retail tariffs has been proposed in the Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power issued by Government;

(b) whether the same envisages payment of not less than 50% of average cost of supply to any sector, including agriculture sector, within 3 years;